

Quarterly Data Report
For Quarter Ending March 2011



Safely Home - Families First Data Trending Quarterly Report, March 2011

What is Safely Home -- Families First?

It is the vision and commitment of Governor Daniels to improve protection and services to children and their families. DCS has also committed to that vision and the data clearly shows that the child welfare system in Indiana is better as a result of our efforts. No matter the report -- whether it is the Practice Indicators, Child and Family Service Review (CSFRs), or other reporting metrics -- we have made progress. These improvements have come primarily from two places- the implementation of our Practice Model and the addition of new Family Case Managers and their management teams. The Practice Model serves as the foundation for better assessments and evaluations, links treatment and services to the assessments, and it changes the mindset of partnering with families and their informal support networks for better short and long term outcomes. As we continue to partner with families and communities to provide children with safe, caring, and supportive environments, we are constantly measuring our efforts.

DCS is always working to achieve improved outcomes for children and families by reviewing existing and emerging research to continually guide and inform our Practice. There is significant research showing that placement in the least restrictive, most family-like setting is in the best interest of children. In fact, both federal and state laws require that, along with child safety, the least restrictive environment is a primary concern when consideration by DCS is requested for placement of a child.

One of DCS's values is that the most desirable place for children to grow up is in their own home - as long as the family is able to provide safety and security for the child. There are some situations when our decisions regarding the safety of a child lead us to determine the removal from the home is in the best interest of that child. In these circumstances, we weigh the possible risks of leaving a child with his/her own family knowing there is trauma when a child is removed from the home.

When a child cannot be safely maintained in the home, we are committed to finding absent parents and relatives. We look for family members who know the child and who are familiar and comfortable to the child. These relatives have established relationships, and as such the trauma of removal is mitigated because the child is with people who know the child and who desire to help the child feel included in their family. Our own Practice Indicators demonstrate that when children are placed with relatives they are more likely to find permanency faster than when they are placed in non-relative environments.

After careful review of this information and data we have centered our efforts over the next two years around the concept of keeping children in their own homes or with relatives. We refer to this concept as "Safely Home—Families First". This is nothing new, but in fact is a renewed and heightened effort to provide for the well-being of our children by identifying those protective factors that will help keep a child at home safely, helping family members find resources and their own informal supports, quickly locating relatives in the event a child is not able to remain in the home. There are many aspects to this effort including: the expansion of in-home support services, wraparound services, intensive family preservation, intensive family reunification and others. Having those services available in a timely manner, at times when the services are needed and with the flexibility to adjust to the needs of the family are absolutely necessary to the success of our Safely Home—Families First efforts.

As DCS moves forward with the Safely Home – Families First initiative, it is important all staff, service providers, courts, CASAs, foster parents and other stakeholders remember that no matter your interaction with the Agency, you play an important role in ensuring children in DCS care are afforded every opportunity for success. Your efforts will help assure they are safely home with resources available to support their family, or

that they are with relatives who can lessen the effects of removal and increase their likelihood of achieving the permanency they deserve.

Children desire and deserve to remain with their own families, to sleep in their own beds, and to be surrounded by their own belongings. They want to go to the same school, see their friends, and learn from the teachers they know. All children also should have a permanent lifetime home where they know they belong and are loved. They deserve to have that permanency established in a timely manner. It is important this Agency acknowledge and want those things for them, and strive to do the best we can to ensure that children are with their own families when they can be so safely. After considering all the independent research, reviewing the successes of other states, and evaluating our own practice reports, the fidelity of our Practice Model demands that we focus on meeting this basic longing for each individual child, which is why DCS is committed to Safely Home – Families First.

Placement Type

National research demonstrates that it is best to serve children in the most home-like and least restrictive setting. The DCS practice model combined with the Safely Home - Families First initiative emphasize keeping more children in less restrictive, more home-like settings while ensuring their safety. DCS has been successful in achieving this goal as demonstrated by the significant reduction in the use of residential placements and increases in relative and in-home placements.

Since the Department is emphasizing the importance of keeping children at home or in the most home-like setting, DCS regularly reviews the number of IA, in-home and relative placements compared to the number of other types of out of home placements. Our goal is to see a continual decline in the number of foster care and residential placements and a steady increase in the number of IA, in-home and relative placements. DCS has been successful in this endeavor as demonstrated by the data below. The reports below reflect data through March 31, 2011; however please note that as of May 31st, DCS has seen a 47.3% statewide decrease in the use of residential care and a 13.52% decline in the use of foster care since March 31, 2006. Comparatively, DCS has seen an increase 32.6% increase in the number of in-home placements and a 91.1% increase in the use of relative placements in the same time period.

DCS is placing emphasis on keeping more children in less restrictive placements; however, it is important to note that there will continue to be a need and role for dedicated foster parents. When children are not able to remain safely in their own home, we are fortunate to have foster families available who can provide these children a safe, stable, loving, home-like environment. The agency recognizes that foster parents open their homes and hearts to children in need of temporary care; a task both rewarding and difficult. With the help of dedicated foster parents, many formerly abused or neglected children and teens will either reunite safely with their parents, be cared for by relatives or be adopted by loving families. The Department of Child Services will continue to rely on all Hoosiers to join us in helping change the lives of children or youth in foster care.

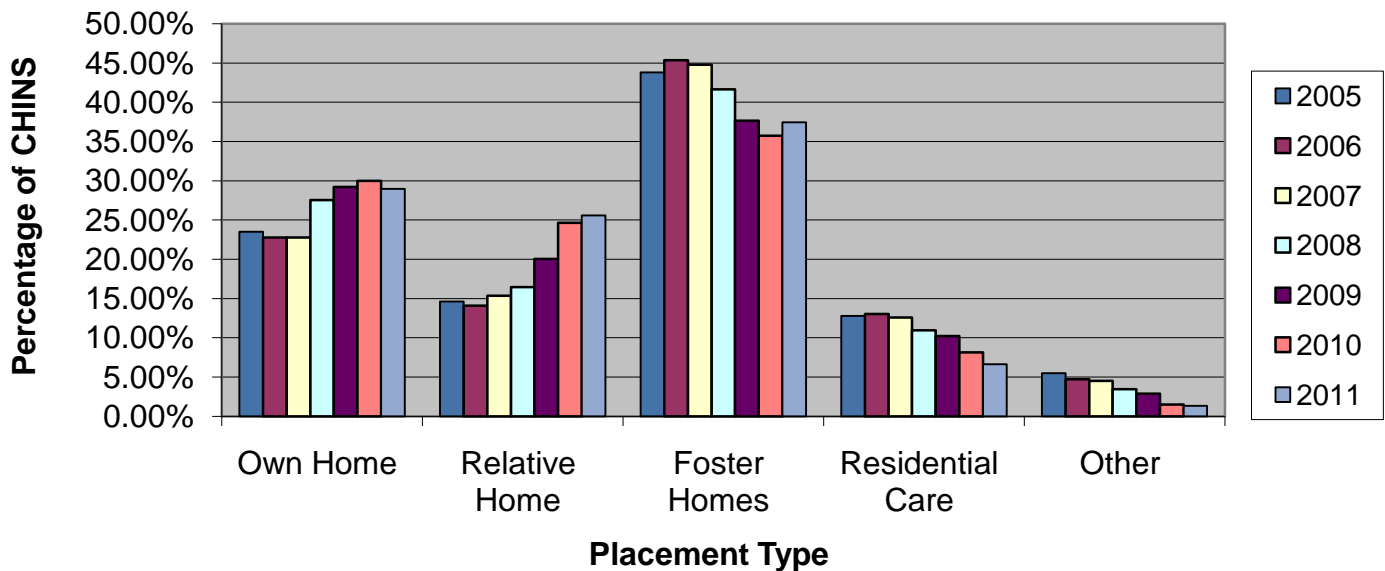
The agency also recognizes that there will continue to be a need and role for residential providers; however, DCS is committed to utilizing this most restrictive placement environment only for those children with significant needs that cannot be met either by remaining in the home or in other less restrictive, more homelike settings. As the agency continues to focus its efforts on the concept of Safely Home - Families First, it hopes to partner with residential facilities throughout the state to determine how the residential placement model can continue to transition from a long term placement environment to more of a short term intervention for these high need children.

% of CHINS in each Placement Type as of March 31

Placement Type	2005		2006		2007	
Total CHINS	11896		13,105		12,975	
Own Home	2795	23.50%	2985	22.78%	2953	22.76%
Relative Home	1738	14.61%	1845	14.08%	1993	15.36%
Foster Homes	5212	43.81%	5945	45.36%	5809	44.77%
Residential Care	1520	12.78%	1710	13.05%	1633	12.59%
Other	652	5.48%	620	4.73%	587	4.52%

Placement Type	2008		2009		2010		2011	
Total CHINS	13736		14,665		15,357		13924	
Own Home	3781	27.53%	4284	29.21%	4603	29.97%	4033	28.96%
Relative Home	2258	16.44%	2938	20.03%	3783	24.63%	3561	25.57%
Foster Homes	5718	41.63%	5520	37.64%	5490	35.75%	5216	37.46%
Residential Care	1504	10.95%	1501	10.24%	1249	8.13%	926	6.65%
Other	475	3.46%	424	2.89%	232	1.51%	188	1.35%

Placement Type by Category

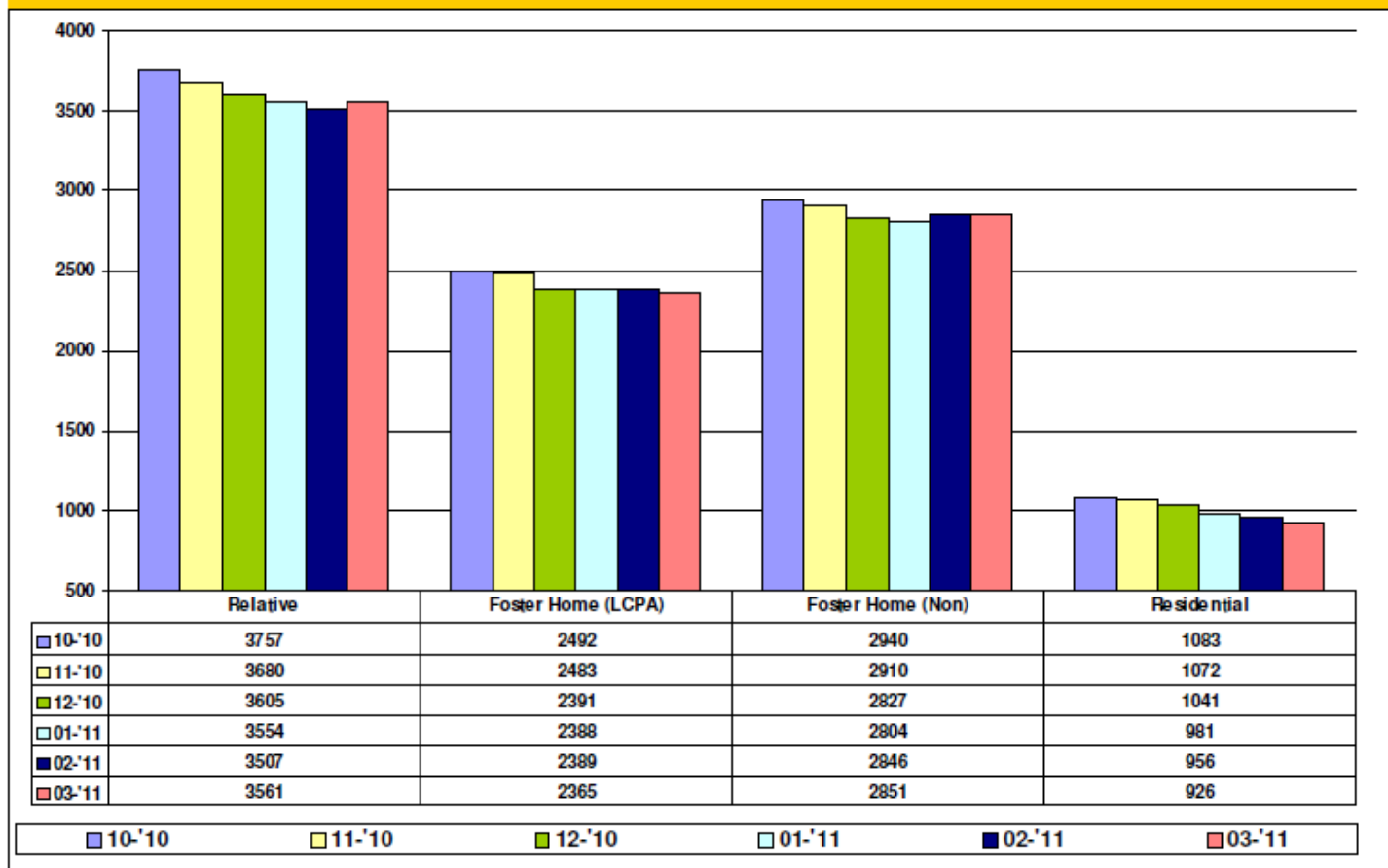




Department of Child Services Family First Placement Breakdown

For March 2011

Statewide Foster Care Placement Breakdown



Definitions of Placement Types:

- Relative Care: Percentage of children that have an open CHINS (Child In Need of Services) case and are placed with relatives.
- Own Home: Percentage of children that have an open CHINS case and are placed in-home.
- Residential placement: Percentage of children that have an open CHINS case and are placed in a residential setting.
- Foster Care (LCPA): Percentage of children that have an open CHINS case and are placed in foster care through a licensed child placing agency.
- Foster Care (non): Percentage of children that have an open CHINS case and are placed in a DCS foster home.
- Other: Percentage of children that have an open CHINS case and are placed in a setting different from those listed above, such as a State hospital, nursing home, Juvenile facilities, psychiatric placements.

Average Number of Placements

Month/Year	Average # of Placements per child
Mar-08	2.85
Mar-09	2.79
Mar-10	2.50
Mar-11	2.50

Definition: Average number of times that a child is moved once in the care of DCS. The first placement occurs when a child is removed from the home. A second placement occurs if the child is moved again.

DCS monitors this measure closely because each placement move disrupts the child's environment. The fewer times we must move a child the more likely the child can remain in the same school and keep the same routine, which reduces the trauma the child experiences, as well as negative, long-term impact.

Siblings Placed Together

Month/Year	# of Sibling Cases (Cases with more than 1 child in the family)	# of Cases with all Children Placed Together	% Placed Together of All Sibling Cases
Mar-07	2441	1,519	62.23%
Mar-08	2,434	1,599	65.69%
Mar-09	2,556	1,756	68.70%
Mar-10	2,739	1,963	71.70%
Mar-11	2,448	1,760	71.90%

Definition: Percentage of cases with multiple children where all of the siblings are placed in the same home together.

DCS believes siblings should always be together. Any time children must be removed from home we want to preserve their connections with their siblings.

Average Length of Stay in Out of Home Care

Month/Year	Average # Days in Out of Home Care per Child
Mar-07	655.46
Mar-08	665.59
Mar-09	612.34
Mar-10	599.10
Mar-11	634.4

Definition: Average number of days that a child spends in out of home care.

DCS believes children should not languish in the system for long periods of time. We want to resolve the issues that caused the removal from home and then move the child to permanency as quickly as possible, whether that solution is reunification with their family, placement with relatives or in some situations, adoption.

DCS Adoptions

Year	Number of Children Adopted
2004	1045
2005	1009
2006	1233
2007	1387
2008	1774
2009	1223
2010	1542

Definition: Number DCS wards adopted annually from 2004 to 2010.

Adoption is one form of permanency for a child, and any increase in adoptions means that more kids are achieving permanency. As of December 2010 DCS completed 1542 adoptions. This was the 2nd best year for adoptions since 2004.

Federal CFSR Data

DCS is required to submit data to the federal Administration of Children and Families (ACF), which is used in various reports and performance analysis. For example, the Adoption and Foster Care Reporting and Analysis System (AFCARS) collects case level information on all children in foster care for whom Indiana has responsibility for placement, care or supervision, and on children who are adopted under the auspices of the Department of Child Services. The AFCARS report periods are October 1 through March 31 and April 1 through September 30.

The following federal collective measures are included in the CFSR permanency outcome:

Permanency Composite 1: Made up of 4 measures taken related to scores regarding reunification in less than 12 months, median stay of children in foster care, re-entry into foster care, etc.

Permanency Composite 2: Made up of 5 measures taken related to length of stay in foster care, adoption in less than 24 months, adoption in less than 12 months, etc.

Permanency Composite 3: Made up of 3 measures taken related to permanency achieved prior to age 18, permanency with TPR, and emancipation

Permanency Composite 4: Made up of 3 measures taken related to less than two placements for children in care for 12, 24 and 24+ months respectively.

Indiana's composite scores on these permanency indicators for FY 2009 are summarized below:

Permanency Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

- Indiana: 124.2 (Indiana ranks 10th out of 50 States)
- National standard: 122.6 or higher

Permanency Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoptions

- Indiana: 133.7 (Indiana ranks 2nd out of 50 States)
- National standard: 106.4 or higher

Permanency Composite 3: Permanency for Children and Youth in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

- Indiana: 134.9 (Indiana ranks 3rd out of 50 States)
- National standard: 121.7 or higher

Permanency Composite 4: Placement Stability

- Indiana: 101.2 (Indiana Ranks 11th out of 50 States)
- National standard: 101.5 or higher

Based on these scores, Indiana exceeds the national standards on Permanency Composites 1, 2, and 3. Indiana has shown steady improvement in Permanency Composite 4 (Placement Stability) over the past four years and is close to meeting the national standard.

Composite Scores Based On AFCARS (Permanency Data Indicator)						
	FY 2006	FY 2007 / National Ranking	FY 2008 / National Ranking	FY 2009 / National Ranking	FY 2010 / National Ranking	National Standard
Reunification	123.8	120.4 16 th	124.6 10 th	127.0 10 th	125.6 10 th	122.6
Adoption	109.7	112.1 12 th	117.2 9 th	129.5 3 rd	132.3 2 nd	106.4
Permanency	132.4	127.0 9 th	133.4 3 rd	139.1 3 rd	136.6 3 rd	121.7
Placement setting stability	97.4	99.3 12 th	100.7 11 th	100.6 11 th	101.4 11 th	101.5
Standard Met		Standard Not Met				